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AN Editorial

Taking the Lag From Housing

M. L. WILSON, Director of Extension Work

■ During the past 10 years there have been great changes in agriculture. In general these changes have been advances, even though during part of this time agriculture was suffering the effects of the great world-wide economic depression. The past decade has seen great advances in scientific farming, in agricultural education, and in the application of science in its many aspects to the production problems of agriculture.

There have been far-reaching and successful operations in maintaining a certain degree of balance between agriculture and industry and in adjusting agriculture to changed world markets. At the same time there have been great advances in land use, in soil conservation, in rural electrification, and in the assistance given to the low-income farm people.

Farm Buildings Neglected

This is all true; yet when one drives through the country, the absence of new farm buildings is noticeable, and along the road many farm buildings are in a low state of repair. The fact is that in the last 10 years farm housing and farm building have lagged behind most of the other activities in relation to farming.

This condition has not gone unnoticed. Many States have worked out a service of supplying farm-building plans adapted to the needs, the prices, and the building conditions in their States. In some places the home management people are cooperating with the agricultural engineers in working on a housing program. I like to see this, for I believe we are coming more and more to take a functional view of things, and the home management people know more than anyone else the functional needs of the farm family on different levels of income. There is a functional relationship in the design of practically all farm structures which brings in the dairy husbandman, the plant pathologist, the animal husbandman, and the poultryman.

There are six agencies of the United States Government which deal directly or indirectly in the development of rural housing. These agencies are the Farm Credit Administration, the Farm Security Administration, the Federal Home Loan Bank

Board, the RFC Mortgage Company, Federal Housing Administration, and the United States Housing Authority. The services of some of these are available directly to the farmer who wants to modernize his home or construct a new one. The services of the others are available not directly but indirectly through local banks or other financing institutions.

All these agencies, both Federal and State, do good work. They have a real service to offer, but they have failed to take up the lag in rural housing. An attempt to do this is being launched by the Conference Committee on Rural Housing which is made up of representatives of these agencies with the Director of Extension Work as the chairman.

The object of this educational program is the promotion of new low-cost homes by utilizing to the limit all facilities for planning and financing rural homes. An encouraging feature of this effort is the cooperation of the building industry. For this purpose the National Homes Foundation, which represents some 25 private companies and some 200 trade associations, has been set up with headquarters in Washington. The building industry has been sincere and earnest in its desire to get something started which would stimulate rural building and has set up a technical and an educational committee to work with us on the housing problem.

It is in the educational field that extension agents will play a particularly vital part by bringing to the attention of farm families available helps to attain better housing. Their work will be supplemented by the National Homes Foundation which will give dealers, local contractors, and building trades the same message.

Organizing on Self-Help Basis

To make the housing program take hold, efforts must now be redoubled to help low-income families to organize for better housing on a self-help basis in contrast to a cash-help basis. On many farms there are trees which will make a type of saw lumber adaptable to farm construction. These farm people often have the time, and they have the labor power; but they do not have the cash with which to buy building materials. Unused farm labor can be organized to cut the trees, to saw the logs, and to build from the material with no out-of-pocket cost.

Arkansas has pioneered in this field as described in this issue of the REVIEW. There is room for much more of this kind of self-sufficing farm-repair and farm-building program. It will take time to train farm people in what I call the self-help farm-building skills. The Smith-Hughes high school teachers can give a great deal of aid. I wish funds were available for a new kind of extension agent to work with these groups, one who would really carry on an adult education project in reestablishing the building skills among the farm people who, if they are going to have better dwellings, will have to build them largely with their own labor.

Financing Building on Commercial Farms

There is another much larger potential field for farm building on the commercial family farms. These farms have a volume of agricultural production and income consistent with scientific agricultural technology. They will always operate under a system of specialization of labor and they will construct their buildings with purchased material and paid labor. Consequently, their need is largely one of adequate financing.

There is still another field for better housing in what I call the individual subsistence homestead. Good roads, fast automobiles, and rural electrification make it possible for people to live a considerable distance from their work. There are hundreds of thousands of people of medium income who would like to get out of town and buy a small tract of land of from 1 to 10 acres. They want to build a house and have a garden, fruit, poultry, and a family cow. These are the families who do not like living, as they express it, cooped up on a city lot.

I feel that there is a great potential opportunity for this kind of farm building and that it should be encouraged, as the deep-seated social and economic changes in this country are making subsistence homesteads and part-time farms more necessary and more desirable every year.

Extension agents can play a vital part in making Government housing services available to every farm family, and they will be supported in their effort by the organized building industry in the Better Homes Foundation.

For August 1940 • Lester A. Schlup, Editor

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

Rural Housing Stimulated by Government

■ The need of rural people for many new homes and for modernization and repair of homes that farmers and their families will continue to occupy is receiving increased national interest and cooperative effort.

Among the Federal agencies which are eager that their credit facilities may be used in small-town and rural areas in rounding out the Nation-wide rehousing program are the Farm Credit Administration, Federal Home Loan Bank Board, Federal Housing Administration, Federal National Mortgage Association, the RFC Mortgage Company, and the United States Housing Authority.

When the United States Housing Act was passed in 1937, establishing Federal aid for slum clearance and low-rent housing, it specifically provided for such assistance to public housing agencies in "rural or urban communities." Congress wrote this provision into the law in formal recognition of the fact that bad housing, far from being confined to urban areas, is actually a condition that seriously menaces the welfare of families all over America, from the most isolated farms to the most populous cities.

Although it has been estimated that a third of the Nation as a whole lives under substandard housing conditions, about 60 percent of all American families—or approximately 4 million—are inadequately housed.

Fully a fourth of all farmhouses are estimated to be in poor structural condition because of defective foundations, floors, walls, or roofs. More than half of the farmhouses in the United States are more than 25 years old, and one farmhouse in five is more than 50 years old. Though age does not necessarily mean that a dwelling is substandard, a substantial number of these old houses have far outlived their usefulness. For the most part, they are shamefully run-down and unpainted, some of them with holes in the roofs and some without doors or window-panes.

These figures, based on a Nation-wide survey of farm housing conducted in 1934 by the Bureau of Home Economics and the Extension Service, demonstrate something that most people do not realize—the fact that inadequate housing is very prevalent in rural areas.

Early in 1940, as the climax to months of effort on the part of the United States Housing Authority, the Department of Agriculture, and the respective local authorities, came the announcement of details of the first six projects to be undertaken with USHA assistance in strictly rural areas. These six projects, made up of individual farm dwellings in the South and Middle West, have been approved by the President for local contracts and will soon pass from the blueprint stage into actual construction. The States represented in this first group of rural projects are Arkansas, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina.

On May 29, M. L. Wilson, director of the Extension Service and chairman of the central housing committee on rural housing, announced plans for a renewed national program of education relative to how existing facilities of governmental financing agencies may be used to promote the building of low-cost homes in rural communities and for farm-building repairs and improvements. Director Wilson stated that important interests in the building industry are cooperating with this program.

In his discussion of the background, progress, and development of the rural rehousing program just launched by the United States Housing Authority, USHA Administrator Nathan Straus said:

"These six projects prove beyond doubt three main points namely: That decent, safe, and sanitary housing can be developed under the USHA program for families in the lowest group in rural areas; that this housing can be developed so economically, without sacri-

ficing essential standards, that it will quicken the progress of the USHA program in the direction of lower building costs and lower annual contributions to reduce rents; and that the slum clearance and low-rent housing program is not only needed, but also is wanted and appreciated and understood in rural areas.

"In the foregoing respects, the rural program has features of similarity to the urban program. In two other respects it is quite different.

"The urban program is devoted to the development of rental housing, because most people in concentrated centers of population are accustomed to rent the homes in which they live. The rural housing program should be directed toward the gradual creation of home owners able to own decent homes without excessive strain upon their slender financial resources. Under the present law, only rental occupancy is possible. But under a suggested amendment to the law now pending, the gradual acquisition of the homes by the families who live in them will be made feasible.

"A second difference between the urban program and the rural program is that the rural program requires and is receiving the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture, because the improvement of living conditions on the farm is inseparably connected with the improvement of working conditions and income conditions on the farm. With perfecting legislation, the Department of Agriculture and the USHA would be able to work together even more closely and even more successfully toward expanding the rural housing program from its present experimental beginnings. I am convinced that better housing is something which appeals to people in all walks of life in all parts of the country because its economic foundations are so firm and its social aspirations are so just."

"Growing Homes" in Arkansas

■ "The 4,341 new homes which farm families have built for themselves in the last 2 years through the use of native materials and home labor and the 4,554 new homes which improved income through better-balanced farming operations enabled farm families to build in 1939 demonstrate what can be achieved through the extension educational program," declared H. E. Thompson, Arkansas assistant extension director, in advocating State-wide participation in the national better-homes movement.

Low farm incomes are no longer a hindrance to the construction of new farm buildings in Arkansas since the launching of the home-made homes campaign in 1937. Following a federal housing survey in seven counties, which showed "the richest soil and the poorest houses," an intensive campaign was started to encourage farm people to do their own building by utilizing native building materials such as stone, logs, gravel, and sand, in which Arkansas abounds.

To help the farm people construct their own homes properly, A Plan Service Handbook with blueprints of each structure was worked out and distributed to the county agents and lumber dealers for the farmers' use. More than 400 original farm-building plans have been developed, and an average of 2,400 of these plans have been distributed to the farm people each year.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thoma of Stone County have just completed a six-room bungalow built from plan number 76308, with only slight alterations. Their new home is valued at \$2,500, but the actual building cost was only \$1,200 in cash. This \$1,300 saving was realized through the use of native stone and lumber and home labor, says Mary White, home demonstration agent. Mr. Thoma hired an experienced carpenter to supervise the building and acted as his helper.

To give more technical training in building and more detailed information on the "Plan Service," 64 home builder's schools have been held during the last 2 years. These schools are open to anyone interested in building. Here the farmers have received instruction on reading blueprints, on masonry work, foundations, floors, ceilings, roofs, insulation, ventilation, paints, room arrangement, storage space, electricity, water and sewage systems, use of native materials and home labor, selection of trees for logs and rough lumber, treatment of logs and lumber, and management of the farm forest. These schools have been held throughout the State by Extension Engineer Earl L. Arnold in cooperation with the extension foresters, specialists in home management and home industries, district agents, county agricultural and home demonstration agents, and representatives of cement, lumber, and building associations.

Negro home demonstration agents, too, are working on this program. More than 10,000 Negro farm families in 286 communities participated in the building program last year. There were 175 new houses built which were used as demonstration houses; 8,709 homes were remodeled or repaired; 1,945 kitchens were improved; 1,246 closets, pantries, and storerooms were built; and 1,739 houses were screened.

During the past year, the Arkansas Extension Service has assisted 7,364 farm families in the construction of 8,427 buildings estimated at \$721,447. These buildings included dwellings and barns, hog and poultry houses, storage structures, and dairy buildings. In addition, silos were built; and sewage, heating, water, and lighting systems were installed according to extension plans. The Extension Service has also assisted with the remodeling, repairing, and painting of 17,130 buildings on 12,872 farms at an estimated value to the farmers of \$270,017. Approximately 100 community buildings were also constructed during 1939 according to extension planning.

The effectiveness of the "home-made" method of farm construction is demonstrated in extension reports from all parts of Arkansas, which show that farmers are able to cut their building costs in half and even less. In some cases farm products such as timber are being exchanged for hardware, cement, and other articles that must be purchased, so that the homes are constructed with small cash expenditure.

The house that the Douglas family built from timber grown on the farm. Mrs. Douglas did the masonry work on the front porch. Sand, gravel, cement, ceiling material, doors, windows, and hardware had to be bought but labor and home-grown produce paid for much of it.



Mrs. Kate Arnold of Washington County, member of the Ozark Home Demonstration Club, reports a house built for a cash cost of only \$50. She says: "We had 60 acres of timberland but no house or any improvements. We cut down selected trees for logs and hired them hewed. The lumber needed was prepared from logs hauled to a sawmill. We now have a large living room, dining room, and kitchen downstairs and a large bedroom upstairs.

Home-made — and practically "home-grown"—is the new four-room home of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Berry in Drew County, built at a cash cost of \$189.91, according to Maeda Asbell, home demonstration agent. Lumber for the house was cut from the Berry woodland and sawed at a nearby sawmill for \$5 per 1,000 feet.

The blocks for the foundation were made from discarded bricks. The walls were papered at a cost of \$1.50. Except for building the flue and the foundation piers, which was done by a brick mason, all labor on the house was done by Mr. Berry who worked on the house at odd times.

For years the Arkansas Extension Service has been encouraging better housing conditions among rural people. During the 17 years of Arkansas' participation in the better homes in America movement, the work has spread from 27 to 6,108 communities. Arkansas has won many national awards, particularly in the rural areas. Home demonstration agents have served as county better homes chairmen and have provided leadership in the counties for year-round home-improvement programs in which businessmen and public officials have taken part. Nearly 69,000 Arkansans participated in last year's national campaign.

Light and Power Come to Caldwell County, North Carolina

ATHA S. CULBERSON, Home Demonstration Agent, Caldwell County

■ Caldwell County, N. C., located at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is 82 percent electrified! The local power company and a rural electrification project furnish the electricity. The Caldwell Mutual was one of the first cooperatives formed in the Nation. Until 1937 there were about 32 miles of rural lines serving thickly settled communities, and now there are 335 miles of electric lines reaching approximately 2,150 families in the country communities.

The rural electrification movement started in March 1936, when an interested group of 75 men and women gathered with the farm and home agents at the Happy Valley School to discuss plans for a community power project. The plan was to buy the Buffalo Mill Dam for generating the electricity for the community. At a later meeting on June 27, this group of Happy Valley citizens completed their plans for the project. These plans, which included 35 miles of line with 250 customers, were taken to Washington; and application was made for Federal aid from the Rural Electrification Administration.

The maps and plans for the Happy Valley project were so well worked out that they interested the officials of the Rural Electrification Authority who proposed that, if the county was interested, plans for a county-wide project be worked up and submitted for approval so that rural people from the whole county could obtain electricity. To the group of progressive-minded Happy Valley citizens who submitted such complete plans for their local project go the thanks for the inspiration for a county project.

Rural leaders from all parts of the county, civic-minded townspeople, and the local Extension Service worked very hard getting plans made for the county project. In less than 2 months the maps were made, and complete plans were taken to Washington. Two representatives from Washington came immediately to view the county, to meet some of the people, and to find out something about the financial condition of the rural people as a whole.

On August 17 the two men from Washington explained in a general way the requirements for a project and how it could be run. A group of 1,000 people jammed the courtroom for this first meeting. Temporary directors were elected to carry on the business until a cooperative could be formed.

Because of the excellent plans and the enthusiasm shown by the people, the project was

approved within a few days. An allotment of \$340,000 was set aside for the project.

During the spring of 1937, the power company built approximately 33 miles of lines to serve 3 communities. About 125 families were given electric service through these extensions.

From August 1936 to December 1937, many people were very busy. The cooperative had to be formed, permanent directors elected, right-of-ways obtained, construction started, and people educated about wiring, lighting, and the use of electricity.

It was the educational phase that the Extension Service was most interested in; for we realized that unless proper wiring was put in, people would not get the full advantages that electricity could offer. Besides the help which we gave locally, Pauline Gordon, State extension specialist in home management and house furnishings; and D. E. Jones, State extension specialist in rural electrification; came to various sections of the county and gave excellent talks and demonstrations on wiring and lighting. Mrs. R. E. Sears, Dudley Shoals community, must have spoken the sentiment of the large groups of people who attended these meetings when she said: "Pauline Gordon, extension specialist in home management and house furnishings, came right down to the problems we all have and told us how to make our plans so that we shall get safe and adequate wiring to give us the best service from electricity."

The prospect of getting electricity presented many problems to people who had never used electric power. Every minute that could be spared from other extension activities was given to electric problems—wiring, lighting, selecting fixtures, selection and use of electric equipment, and how to care for appliances.

At all home demonstration meetings for many months the subject of electricity and its uses was discussed. It was a pleasure to help people who were so eager to get information. The two bulletins, "Wiring and Lighting for the Home," by Pauline E. Gordon and D. E. Jones; and "Use of Electricity on North Carolina Farms," by David S. Weaver, State extension agricultural engineer, were of great help to our people.

Besides the help the Extension Service gave in the educational program, several specialists with the Rural Electrification Administration held electric schools which were

very helpful. Representatives from the local power company also assisted with these programs.

In January 1938, about half the lines were energized. People had become a little impatient because it had seemed a long time since August 1936, when the project was approved. But this was one of the first projects, and work did go slowly. However, in a few months all the lines were energized.

To the Rural Electrification Administration, to the power company, to the manager, to the directors, to local organizations, and to many individuals for their untiring efforts is due the credit for 82 percent of our people having electricity.

Rural people all over Caldwell County are thankful every day for electric service. This is what Mrs. A. N. Corpening of Hartland told me just after she had a water system installed: "I thought getting lights and iron and a refrigerator was great, but none of them seem quite as nice as does water in the kitchen and a bathroom. Why, my home does not seem like the same place!" From Mrs. G. L. Teague, Dudley Shoals Club: "I cannot imagine having to be without electricity again. Why, I would not take \$500 for my washing machine alone unless I could get another." I have heard hundreds of statements like these. Rural electrification means a saving of time, elimination of tiresome chores, benefits in health, and a new era of human comforts and efficiency for our families.

On the Cover

Extension Service plans were used in building this five-room house from native materials in Union County, Ark. The extension agricultural engineering specialist of Arkansas reported that during 1939, 779 dwellings were built and 1,996 dwellings were remodeled in Arkansas in accordance with Extension Service plans.

Oregon District Conferences

Five district conferences between county extension agents, Smith-Hughes instructors, and Farm Security representatives were held in Oregon this year. The purpose of the meetings was to secure better relationships between these agencies in working out their common problems. Various phases of land use programs, Future Farmers of America projects, Farm Security loans, and problems facing the Farm Security Administration in each district were discussed.

■ A feature of the seventh State 4-H Leaders' training and Achievement Camp of South Carolina, held at Camp Long in April, was the awarding of 39 scrolls of recognition to citizens who had served 10 or more years as leaders of 4-H Clubs. These 39 leaders represent 15 counties, the length of their service ranging as high as 22 years.

Architects for a Rural Program

C. A. SVINTH, County Agricultural Agent, Thurston County, Wash.

■ During the past few years we have been giving considerable thought to the development of a plan which would assist in the building of a more permanent and stable agriculture. In developing our agriculture program we must look about for those who would serve in the capacity of competent architects.

Who could be found to fulfill this important job, who would be better qualified than rural farm and home leaders whose experience has been gained by tilling the soil and who have assisted in developing the agriculture of the region to date? This group of farm and home leaders in Thurston County was called together in February 1938 in seven communities covering the county and asked by the extension agents to contribute their services.

Land-Use Map Developed

In accepting the responsibility, they began by giving thought to the soil resources of the county. The county land use map was developed.

After the land use map was developed, the rural leaders were called together in the various communities and asked to project further designs for the agricultural development of the county.

It is not possible to review here all the recommendations made by the committee, but it would be well to give consideration to those which the extension agents inaugurated as a part of the extension program for 1939 and 1940. There are 2,967 farms in Thurston County. Of this number, 932 have an average cropland acreage of 32 acres which is sufficient to develop a self-sustaining farm in this area. It is rather surprising to note that the other 2,035 farms have an average cropland acreage of only 3.9 acres. This latter group, of course, has some income other than agriculture. These sources of income are usually found in the lumbering industry which is employing fewer men each year rather than more men, which means that more and more people are becoming dependent on the land for a livelihood.

On the basis of these facts and general observations, the committee recommended that the Extension Service develop a program whose objective will be to extend the farm family income through wiser management of the income available, wise buymanship, and an increase in home production of food. This program was developed by the extension agents in nine communities in 1939. Community leaders in these nine communities were called to a county meeting for the purpose of developing the program. The pro-

gram suggested that a series of five meetings be held during the year in each community. The first meeting planned the well-balanced diet on the basis of what might be produced on the land and discussed the production of an adequate supply of fruits, vegetables, dairy and poultry products, and the meat supply on the farm. Both agents participated in this discussion. At the second meeting, field demonstrations on the control of garden and small-fruit insects and diseases and care of the home orchard were in charge of the county agent. The third meeting was given over to demonstrations on the preservation and storage of fruits and vegetables, in charge of the home demonstration agent. Demonstrations on the cutting, curing, and preservation of home-produced meats, with both agents participating, were featured at the fourth meeting. The final meeting emphasized the preparation of home-preserved food in a variety of ways, in charge of the home demonstration agent.

Each group was organized under the direction of a community project leader who enlisted a group of from 6 to 10 families that were interested in the program and requested the extension agents to conduct the program in the community.

A new feature has been added this year by having the Thurston County Homemakers' Council sponsor a "Storage Cupboard Demonstration." Families in the various communities are enrolling in this phase of the program and will be scored on the basis of whether or not they have achieved the goal by providing for the family adequately from the resources they have on the farm. Those who complete this project will serve as result demonstrators, and publicity will be given to the achievements made for the purpose of encouraging others to participate in the program.

From the land use studies it was noted that there were five distinct communities that could be indicated as agricultural problem areas. The county land use committee suggested that the first procedure should be to conduct a farm-record survey in each of these communities for the purpose of more definitely determining the factors that contributed to limiting the income of farms in the various areas. This survey was started in 1939 by the extension agent in cooperation with the State extension economist and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The results from this survey indicated that the majority of farming units were too small.

In a number of the areas there was a definite need for changing the type of farming. A majority of the records indicated that the tendency should be away from specialized

cash crops and toward dairying or a more diversified type of agriculture. Plans are being developed to get more complete information which would reveal types and size of farms that would be the most adequate in the various areas.

For instance, Yelm community, which is designated as problem area number 1, has experienced disastrous results of the decline of the lumber industry. In this community, virtually all of the small irrigation farmers depended upon employment in a small mill at McKenna for at least a small part of their income. This mill closed in 1929, throwing several hundred men out of employment; and, as a result, many of the owners of small tracts lost their places, and the irrigation district was forced into virtual bankruptcy. The farm leaders in the community are conscious of the situation that exists and have a community planning committee which is working continuously to arrive at a solution of the problem.

Community Farm Census Taken

First of all, they carried out a community farm census which revealed that there were 275 farms in the area with a total of 2,183 acres in cultivation. Two hundred and two of the farms are owned by the operators. The remaining 73 farms are rented. Length of residence on farms in this community averaged 9 years. The survey also included the acreage of various crops, total number of chickens and livestock, and kinds and types of farm equipment. The list of problems and recommendations made by the Yelm community committee showed that the size of the farm is the major farm problem. The farm acreage averages 8 acres of cultivated land, when it is believed that 20 acres should be the minimum where all the income is to be derived from the farm. In order to determine definitely the size of the farm, the committee thought it important that the Extension Service select 4 or 5 cooperators who are already operating on what might be thought as good set-ups so that we should have information regarding this point. They found a very great need for information regarding yields of various crops and livestock production, which can be obtained from records kept by farm cooperators.

The committee felt that farming was carried on too much along the lines of specialized crops and recommended more diversification and livestock.

There is a very urgent need for an immediate survey of the irrigation system so that an action program might be started at once toward putting the system in proper shape. Immediate arrangements are being made to follow out the recommendations made by this community committee.

The foregoing is what the architects are doing in Thurston County in building an agriculture that will afford a better rural home and community life.

Family-Planned Kitchens

ELLEN LINDSTROM, Extension Home Management Specialist, Kansas

■ Women throughout Kansas say, "I wish you could see my kitchen. It is so much easier to work in than it used to be, and you know we planned the improvements and did the work ourselves."

In the Kansas home management program, emphasis has been placed on kitchen storage and kitchen arrangement. The incomes of farm families have been low during the past few years, making it necessary for any improvements to be made by family members. The home management local leaders in the units have attacked the problem of kitchen improvements in the light of present circumstances.

Some ingenious changes have been made by family members with practically no expense involved. A Kiowa County woman needed a work table and additional storage space near her stove. She and her husband decided that they would see what they could do with an old incubator that had not been in use for many years. Many hours of labor, some scrap lumber, and paint made the useless incubator into an attractive, usable work table and cupboard. Who would ever expect to see a worn-out incubator back in service in the kitchen?

A woman in Decatur County, needing a cupboard near her stove, made use of five orange crates given to her by the local store. She placed the crates on a standard and made a stove cupboard. It is attractive and has made it possible to store the articles used at the stove near there. She says that the cupboard has saved her a great deal of time and many steps in preparing meals.

A number of families in Butler County are planning kitchens. One family whose kitchen was badly arranged and who had no storage facilities in the kitchen sought the help of the home demonstration agent in making plans for remodeling. The entire family of four contributed toward making the plan, and the cupboards are being built in the Newton High School manual training class by the boy in the family.

A husband in Leavenworth County constructed a fine set of built-ins for his wife's kitchen. The home demonstration agent was consulted in making the plans. The cupboards were placed along the east wall, and the working surface covered with linoleum. A window was put in above the sink. Some of the special features of the cupboard were adjustable shelves and a filing system for shallow pans. The family felt that at least \$50 had been saved by their making the plans and doing the work. In addition, they felt that the cupboards were more convenient and suited to the needs of their family than if the cupboards had been commercially built.

Packing boxes of all kinds have been used to add a shelf here and a cupboard there. A Pawnee County homemaker used apple boxes to make adequate storage space near the stove. Lettuce boxes, prune boxes, cheese boxes, old refrigerators, refrigerator crates, piano crates, casket boxes, and many other materials have been used to increase storage space with little or no expense. Homemakers now find it possible to store articles near where they are to be used. These devices will do much toward helping Kansas homemakers with a better kitchen arrangement until such time as they can afford to build more permanent storage. In making plans for kitchen improvement, short- and long-time plans are outlined by home management leaders with the long-time aim to have a convenient kitchen planned and made by the family for the family.

There are a number of family-planned kitchens in all stages of completeness. An Osborne County tenant family has an excellent example of a family-planned kitchen. It is neither modern nor model, but materials on hand have been used to get what the family wants in the form of an attractive, well-arranged kitchen. In this instance a low, shallow cupboard forms the division between the dining room and kitchen.

A kitchen belonging to a Shawnee County family living near Topeka shows the results of family planning over a period of years. This family, consisting of five boys and their father and mother, now has a modern, convenient kitchen. The family purchased an

old house several years ago, and over the period of time that they have had the house they have made many changes. An old pantry has become a dining area. They have built-in cupboards, put in a sink, provided adequate light in the kitchen, and redecorated the kitchen and dining area; and the final improvement was made last fall when the refrigerator was enclosed on the back porch so that it opens into the kitchen.

In the past 5 years, kitchen improvement has been carried mainly through the efforts of local leaders trained by the specialist. The local-leader material has been presented at six training meetings in the county dealing with storage, kitchen arrangement, and selection and care of kitchen equipment as subject matter. Kitchen-improvement plans are being made by families in the form of kitchen conferences, at which time the family members, the home demonstration agent, and perhaps the specialist consider possible short- and long-time plans for kitchen improvement. In the case of the Shawnee County kitchen mentioned previously, these plans have grown because of a strong unit home management program and because of individual help given by the home demonstration agent.

Better farm incomes will make the problem easier to solve; but, until that time comes, materials on hand along with family planning and family doing will suffice.

Kitchen improvement may progress a great deal faster and much farther if it is attacked by the county agent interesting the farmer as well as the home demonstration agent interesting the homemaker, for the homes are a family affair. In this way more families will become interested, and the result will be better-planned kitchens because family members have been informed on why improvements should be made and on how to proceed in making them.



What Does it Profit a County?

During his visit last spring to Concho County, Tex., Director Wilson was impressed with the extension work carried on by County Agent Roy W. Terry. An historical appraisal of the work was requested. As Mr. Terry was the only agent the county ever had, he felt that the appraisal could best be made by another. Judge O. L. Sims, who was on the commissioners' court which hired Mr. Terry and who had followed the work from the start, consented to write the appraisal. Unfortunately, before the ink was hardly dry, County Agent Terry fell dead on the courthouse lawn while talking to a group of farmers. His achievements described here by Judge Sims will live after him.

■ An historical appraisal of the work accomplished by the Extension Service in Concho County is so inextricably connected with the personal history of the county's one and only county agent that this sketch is more a biography of Roy W. Terry than a formal attempt at historical writing.

Mr. Terry's natural modesty, together with his reluctance to discuss his own accomplishments, prompted him to request me to prepare the sketch.

If I seem unduly enthusiastic, I have no apologies to make, because I know better than anyone else what he accomplished.

In the late spring or early summer of 1917, J. L. Quicksall, district agent for the Extension Service, called on the commissioners' court of Concho County, of which court I was the "kid" member. The court was composed of notorious tightwads, and I still marvel at the joint enthusiasm of Mr. Quicksall and myself in carrying the matter through.

On October 24, 1917, a model-T roadster drove up to our ranch headquarters; and one of the most scared, greenest, and most uncertain men I ever saw got out of the car and hesitantly announced that he was the new county agent of Concho County. The thought occurred to me that if I were out trying to shoot county agents, this fellow would be entirely safe. He took me over to the car and introduced me to his wife who smiled and said: "Well, we are the new county agent and family; and I guess that you could look the world over and couldn't find two people as ugly as we are." That broke the ice and was the beginning of personal friendship that I shall cherish all my days.

This green country boy, actuated by a desire for service that was almost fanatical, went to work in a rather unpromising field. Our old-timers even resented an upstart from A. and M. College trying to tell them how to handle their livestock and how to run their farms; but Terry kept doggedly on, and it was not long before we found that he not only had good "savy" but that he was a top cowhand and farm hand as well.

Among the things accomplished in Concho County under the "Terry Regime" are:

Saving of large sums of money during the several dry years on drought purchases and shipments of feed.

Eradication of prairie dogs. Eradication of coyotes and the consequent substitution of loose handling of sheep in pasture for the old herding method. The carrying capacity of our pastures has been increased thereby many times.

Practically every stock owner in Concho County now has registered sires, and the grade of our livestock has been raised to a remarkable degree. We now have practically purebred stuff on all our farms and ranches. Our wool is considered to be as good as any grown in Texas, and our cattle bring a premium on the market. We have as many miles of contour rows and farm terraces as any county in Texas.

The Work Speaks for Itself

We have had several outbreaks of animal diseases stopped by Terry's prompt action.

Much work has been done on better seeds. We have more than the average number of trench silos.

We have a harmonious and enthusiastic conservation set-up.

We have boys' clubs that are accomplishing much in the way of feeding livestock and growing crops.

We are known far and wide among contractors for our prompt and efficient handling of engineering problems and earth measurements on tank dams, terraces, and the like. As an example of his constructive thinking along this line, I here call attention to the fact that he put in level farm terraces against the advice of the Extension Service's engineers who told him that they would accept no responsibility for this practice. There are now thousands of miles of level and closed-end terraces in our State to vindicate Mr. Terry's judgment.

When Mr. Terry came here there was not a terrace or contour in our county. He

preached conservation methods in season and out of season. There were approximately 60 sheepmen who owned about 65,000 sheep when Terry came into our county, and I seriously doubt that there were one-half dozen farmers among them. We now have approximately 400 sheep owners who annually run about 300,000 head.

For all of these things we are indebted to Mr. Terry and for most of which he was directly responsible.

Mr. Terry had the reputation of being the hardest-working man in Concho County, and this writer personally vouches for that fact. He started out by culling every old lady's chickens and doctoring every two-bit calf and sick mule in the county. He has probably sat up with more ailing animals than any other man in Texas. I venture to assert that there is not a man or woman and very few children in Concho County who are not personally indebted to Mr. Terry for some favor or kindness shown; and if a poll were taken for our most useful citizen, there is no question but that his name would lead all the rest.

During the service of this writer as a member of the legislature, Dr. T. O. Walton, then head of the Extension Service of Texas, asked me this question in the lobby of the old Driskill Hotel in Austin: "What do you think of your county agent?" My reply was: "We have got the best blankety-blank county agent in the world!" This created a big laugh among the people standing around, but the writer meant it as correct and called Mr. Walton's attention to the fact that in shipping feed in under the drought tariff he saved Concho County its share of his salary for 50 years.

Mr. Terry was a first-class judge of livestock, an expert drainage engineer, a good veterinarian, a good judge of cotton and wool, and was well informed on all conservation and other modern practices.

In addition to all this, he was the guide, father-confessor, and friend of every farmer and stockman in our county.

Help in Marketing

Assistance in marketing of more than \$4,083,000 worth of farm products and livestock and in purchasing \$1,055,000 worth of farm products and livestock was given Georgia farmers in 1939.

Through these activities, Georgia farm people saved approximately \$339,000 in selling and buying farm products. About \$214,000 was saved on marketing, and more than \$125,000 was realized through extension assistance in purchasing.

The marketing division of the Extension Service conducted 250 tobacco-grading demonstrations with an attendance of 6,500 farmers, in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. A number of cooperative markets for farm and livestock products were also established.

County Works on Health "H"

F. J. REED, County Agent, Preston County, W. Va.

■ We have had 4-H Club work in Preston County since the beginning of the quarter century of extension work, and during all this time we have realized that one of these H's stood for health, yet the health program itself was not started until 1934. In 1934 and 1935, club members were urged to have a physical examination or to be scored on the West Virginia 4-H health examination card by a private physician. Only 9 percent of the members did this in 1934 and 12 percent in 1935.

In 1936 we conceived the idea that the county health unit might cooperate in giving these examinations, so a conference between the county extension workers and the county health unit resulted in a good working arrangement. The physician directing the county health unit and his staff of nurses agreed to give all 4-H Club members free physical examinations following the items on the West Virginia health examination card. This cooperation with the health unit of the county has been complete and has resulted in a 90 percent participation of club members in the health program instead of the 10 percent previous to this. It may be that Preston County has a particularly cooperative health unit but doubtless such arrangements could be worked in other counties that have public health work.

The organization of the health program since 1936 has been greatly simplified as well as expanded. The doctor and nurses, accompanied by the home demonstration agent and county agent, visit the various clubs of the county. Teachers and club leaders cooperate by allowing us time to examine the children.

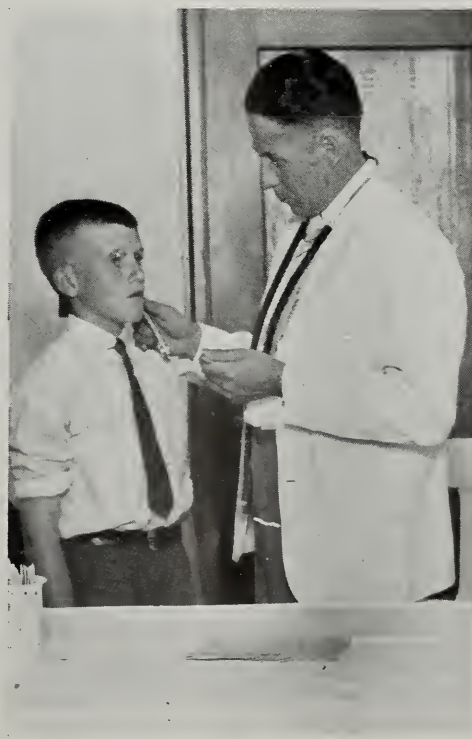
We call the month of March our "Health Month" and most of this work is done during March, so that we have a simplified, concentrated, organized beginning for the health program. The 1940 examinations are completed, and of the 412 members enrolled, 389 were examined, showing again that around 90 percent seems to be the maximum that we can get examined. This had held fairly true over the last 5-year period. It is seldom that a child refuses to be examined or that his parents refuse to have him examined, so that the only ones we missed were the ones who were absent from school on the day of the examination.

A typical 4-H Club health program adopted by one of our county 4-H clubs provides that every member shall receive the free physical and health examinations, record the defects, and put his card where it will be easily found and hard to lose. A club defect chart and graph shall be prepared upon which shall be a spread of each member's defects and a

progressive graph showing improvements and corrections made by the members. The high peak shall be knocked off this graph by a statistical recording of corrections with the health committee bringing pressure upon every member to make what corrections are within his resources, such as demonstrations in good grooming, care of skin, hair, nails, and improvement of general appearance; instruction in good personal hygiene, encouraging visits to the family physician, dentist, or oculist; emphasis on good posture; demonstrations in wearing proper footwear and exercises in foot corrections; requiring immunization against typhoid and smallpox; stressing the best things to eat and scoring diets on the food selection score card; in all, working toward the end of having every member practice good health habits.

We have a three-way record of each child's examination. The health department keeps a file of the members examined; we keep one in the county extension office; and each member is given a copy of the card for his own use. Any statistics emanating from the 4-H health program come from the study and analysis of the cards in our office.

A brief random sampling of the cards will demonstrate our health program in terms of corrections and improvements. For this purpose I shall analyze 132 members and divide the data into two sections, corrections and improvements. It must be borne in mind



that I am dealing with 1940 figures as checked against the findings of 1939, which means that these children were examined in 1939 and reexamined in 1940.

We find that in the item of general appearance there were 17 who actually corrected defects and 9 who made improvements; 29 corrected posture and 28 improved their posture; 7 corrected nutritional habits while 6 made improvements; 21 made definite corrections in vision, 7 showed improvement; 18 made definite corrections in throat conditions, mostly removal of tonsils, while 14 showed improvement; 44 made dental corrections and 14 had partial correction or general improvement in teeth conditions; 19 had removed evidence of goiter and 5 made definite improvement toward eliminating goiter; 4 had made improvement in functional heart disturbances while 2 had apparently normalized; 12 club members made corrections in feet and 17 showed the effects of work on them; 6 were immunized against typhoid and smallpox during 1939 (92 percent of the 4-H Club members examined had all their immunizations); and finally, 27 of the 132 members showed definite corrections in their health habits.

Value of Health Examination

The health examination has made the 4-H Club member and his parents conscious of these defects, and the club leaders and health committees have very definitely contributed to the county health program by assisting the members to correct their physical defects and their health development.

We have inserted a little glamour into the health program through the channels of an annual "healthiest boy and girl contest." We have avoided any undue stress upon the competitive side of the health program as it is participation that we wish to emphasize. All boys and girls love a contest and realizing the stimulating forces of competition, we choose the highest scoring boy and girl from each local club as club champions. These club champions are then entered in the county contest which throws them into competition with other club champions to determine the champion boy and girl of the county. In order to provide wider competition, as well as fair competition, we divide them into junior and senior groups. Those 15 years of age, or older, are in the senior group and those from 10 to 14 years inclusive are in the junior group. The highest scoring boy and girl of the senior group are awarded scholarships to the State camps at Jackson's Mill and represent Preston County in the State health contest. The highest scoring boy and girl of the junior group are awarded scholarships to our local county camp.

The county health contest is climaxed by a health banquet sponsored by 4-H Club leaders and older club members. The menu and talks at the banquet, of course, are pertinently aimed at health and health programs.

Oregon Land-Use Planning Committees

Help to Solve Migratory Problems

■ The plight of rootless men adrift on the land has engaged the attention of the Nation in recent years. It is fitting to ask what county land-use planning committees are doing to help solve the economic ills that have brought about the problems of rural migration. Noteworthy is the example at hand in the State of Oregon where planning committees in many counties are tackling the migrant problem from the standpoint of its relation to the use of the land.

The Clatsop County land-use planning committee observed that a large number of uninformed migrants had been settling in the county on lands unsuited to farming. The rapid influx of settlers from North and South Dakota, Montana, and other drought areas had made the situation serious; and the committee started thinking about ways and means to guide settlement of newcomers to suitable locations.

The committee recommended that signs be posted on all roads leading into Clatsop County, warning agricultural home seekers to consult the county agricultural agent in Astoria for reliable information. This recommendation the Clatsop County Court soon carried out in the manner illustrated.

Land-use planning committees in adjacent counties are recommending that similar warning signs should be posted. The Columbia County planning committee has urged that such signs be posted on the Ridge Road in that county's acute problem area, suggesting that agricultural settlers consult the county agricultural agent or members of the county land-use planning committee prior to purchasing land in that area. And the Washington County land-use planning committee is considering a similar recommendation, after having discussed the matter with members of the county court.

Other methods being used by Oregon farmers, technicians, and administrators to help alleviate migratory problems are revealed in the recommendations and minutes of various county planning committees.

Thus the land-use planning committee in Clackamas County recommended that the land classed as submarginal in the county be purchased by the Federal Government and placed within the boundaries of a national forest where it cannot be resettled.

The committee in Hood River County recognized that there has been a considerable influx of new farmers from districts where the sizes of farms were largely determined on a very different economic basis. As a result, many migrants from the Dust Bowl, lacking funds, are purchasing small acreages for home sites and are depending upon outside labor for their income. Although there

has been a demand for such labor, the committee felt that it has created a difficult situation because other farmers with too small a unit have depended upon this type of labor for supplemental income. The committee, therefore, recommended the appointment of a special committee to work with the county agent in advising new farmers.

To prevent the further settlement of submarginal lands in Josephine County, the planning committee there recommended: (1) Restrictions of agricultural credit; (2) selling to prospective farmers only that land which is definitely agricultural; (3) adoption of a rural zoning law; and (4) cooperation of far sighted real estate men in urging clients to purchase only economic units.

The Multnomah County land use planning committee has suggested the appointment of a permanent land committee. In cooperation with the county agent, this committee would advise newcomers and others concerning land use and land values and would select and recommend competent farm appraisers. In purchases of farms by persons unfamiliar with local conditions, purchasers are advised by the committee to obtain the services of a competent appraiser. The committee often recommends that newcomers should rent land for a year or two so they can learn more about it before purchasing it.

The Umatilla County planning committee proposed recently that publicly owned lands which do not make up a profitable farming unit should not be turned back to private ownership. It also suggested that small units of publicly owned lands scattered over the county should be kept out of production.

Thirty-two percent of the farms in Wallowa County are operated by tenants, the land use planning committee there observed. Convinced that too large a percentage of tenants' leases are on a short-term basis, the committee recommended a long-term lease which would give the tenant an opportunity to build up the farm. This would also make for a more permanent tenant population, the committee concluded.

The Yamhill County planning committee counted about 100 families living on cut-over and burned-over timberlands in the western part of the county. Of the 160,000 acres so held, it estimated that there are 500 acres of cropland, 10,000 acres of slashed pasture, and 4,500 acres of woodland pasture. On the average, the committee stated, this land is not capable of supporting a family by agriculture. It recommended that new settlers should be discouraged in this area and that prospective settlers should obtain the advice of agricultural experts.

At a recent meeting, the Crook County



land-use planning committee recommended that new settlers coming to the county should rent a farm for at least 2 years before buying it and that as much information as possible be obtained about the farm before purchase.

Other county land-use planning committees in Oregon are accomplishing similar results, but the examples cited are enough to demonstrate clearly what can happen when farmers, technicians, and administrators plan together to solve a pressing problem. The way Oregon planning committees have tackled the migrant situation, and the way the recommendations of the local committees are being developed into action afford a noteworthy example of the county planning process at work.

Tree Planting Speeded Up

The results due to concentrating on a particular farm-forestry project and localizing it are well illustrated in the Wisconsin shelterbelt program. The incentive was a devastating windstorm period in May 1934, which struck the central portion of the State, involving seven counties. It was apparent that something must be done to help prevent wind erosion and to protect crops; so, under the direction of Extension Forester F. B. Trenk, the Extension Service concentrated on this phase of farm forestry. The number of trees distributed from the State forest nursery by years for this shelterbelt project increased from about 400 in 1935 to nearly 2,400 in 1940.

Besides the beneficial effects already mentioned, the field shelterbelts act as snow collectors, thus increasing soil moisture. They provide protection and food to wildlife, add beauty to the landscape, and decrease evaporation in the protected zone.

Relief for Rural Writers

J. W. SCHEEL, Extension Editor, Kansas State College

■ Of all the jobs for which clubs elect officers, the reporter's position is by far the most unpopular. Writing is a dreaded chore for 9 out of every 10 club reporters. Yet the women's home demonstration units and 4-H Clubs in Kansas alone elect some 1,900 reporters every year.

Most of the club cubs seem not to have noticed that as a general rule the editor tries to print stories about events that have just happened. To them the minutes of the club meeting are news as long as they never have been printed; so it makes little difference to them whether the meeting report is submitted to the editor the day after the meeting, the week after the meeting, or 3 weeks after the meeting. One woman actually made 3-weeks-after reporting a regular practice on the theory that this made more timely the notice of place and date of the next meeting (the standard closing for club reports).

Out of this situation has developed a plan for holding county reporter-training schools, which has been a feature of Kansas extension work for 6 years.

Develops New Technique

That first year's experience convinced the extension editor and at least some of the county agents that there were possibilities in such a program. But the experience also showed that this was a new field to which many preconceived notions of publicity did not apply and that a new technique needed to be developed if the news-writing-school idea was to become fully successful. The 5 succeeding years have been devoted to developing that technique by the painful but effective process of trial and error.

Experience has shown that the most successful plan for training these local leaders to write is to schedule one full-day school in each county. To be most effective, the school should be held in December, January, or February, as most clubs elect new officers in October or November. Plenty of advance publicity for the meeting is needed, as reporters are not accustomed to attending training schools.

Experience also has shown that practice writing periods should be a major feature of the schools. These practice periods, followed by each reporter's reading aloud the item she has just written, serve to fix in the reporter's mind the principles of news writing. They also permit the editor conducting the school to learn whether or not he is getting his points across to his pupils.

The program for a typical Kansas county news-writing school of 1940 includes intro-

ductory remarks by the county home demonstration or agricultural agent and a discussion on the need for publicity by the extension specialist. Practice in writing begins when the reporters write an advance notice of meetings. This is followed by a general discussion on meeting reports with illustrative examples and practice in writing leads for meeting reports.

In the afternoon, a demonstration or a 5-minute talk on some subject of interest to the group is arranged by one of the agents. Each student reporter writes this up, and the articles are read to the group for comment in the light of the morning's instruction.

The feature article is discussed next, and each one writes a practice feature story which is read for comment. The day's instruction is summarized by the extension specialist, and the group ends the day visiting the local newspaper office.

A local newspaper editor always is invited to attend the meeting and is asked to give a brief talk. The feature-story-writing period included on the afternoon program of the schools is the result of a suggestion offered by a weekly paper editor who attended one of the meetings several years ago. This editor said that he would like to receive some stories about 4-H Club members and their projects in addition to receiving reports of club meetings. Other editors who were queried on the subject offered additional suggestions. In line with their recommendations, the news-writing schools now are designed to encourage the club reporters to be on the watch for other items of interest about their clubs besides the meetings that are held. Many valuable feature stories for State-wide use have originated from these sessions.

Discovers 4-H Feature Stories

There is the story of the two 4-H Club brothers in western Kansas who had a garden for their project in one of the worst drought years. Following extension teachings, they planted a windbreak of sweet corn along the south and west sides of the plot. The windbreak worked, and their gardens stayed fresh and green during the heat of the summer when other gardens in the community were burned to a crisp. The local 4-H Club reporter recognized the value of that story and sent it to the local paper. It also found a place in a State-wide farm publication and was used in an extension release to commercial radio stations throughout the State.

Other stories have told of the 4-H Club

project that brought several herds of a new breed of dairy cattle into a county, the women's unit that has made a community center from an abandoned church building, the women's unit that has set up a circulating kit of sickroom equipment in a community that is far from a hospital, the unit that replenished its treasury by producing and selling tomato plants of a new wilt-resistant variety, the farm woman who saved several days' time in a few years by using the 3-minute overall patch that she learned through her unit work, and the unit that has had a special roll call on canning at every meeting for 9 years.

Such stories as these are plentiful in every county, but county agricultural agents and home demonstration agents often do not know about them or do not have time to write them up. Reporters of 4-H Clubs and women's home demonstration units are right on the spot where the news is happening, and they can and will do the job if given a little encouragement and assistance.

Agents Hold Schools

Limited travel funds and limited time for such work make it impossible for the Extension editor to hold such training meetings in every county every year. As a general rule, new counties are selected for each year's work; but the extension agents in other counties where such meetings have been held in previous years are encouraged to hold their own meetings with the assistance of local newspaper editors or high-school journalism teachers. Copies of mimeographed illustrative material for use at such schools are provided by the extension editor on request. Last year, 611 copies of the handbook, *Tips on News Writing*, were distributed in this manner.

Kansas experience has clearly proved that training meetings for local club reporters are desirable, possible, and practical. Experience has also shown that the information given at these meetings should be simple, direct, and aimed at the club reporter's particular problems. An example of this is the method used to illustrate separating news from chaff. The reporters are told that they should put in the newspaper the things about this particular meeting of their club that were different from all the other meetings of the club, and that they should leave out of the newspaper report the things that they did this time that they always do in that same way every time they meet. By applying this rule to a typical set of minutes for a meeting, they quickly learn to strike out the call to order, the group singing, the reading of the minutes, and other such routine material. Once they learn that not everything that happens is news, it is relatively easy for them to go a step farther and rearrange the events of the meeting in the order of their importance rather than in chronological order.

Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council

■ The further safeguarding of the nearly 3 million employees in the Federal service is the objective of the Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council established recently "as an official advisory agency in matters relating to the safety of Federal employees."

Following 3 years of effort by Government officials, under the leadership of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, the council was given official status by an Executive order, dated March 21, 1939, to "act as a clearing house for accident prevention and health conservation information and * * * on request, to conduct surveys or such other investigations as will be deemed necessary to reduce accident hazards, and shall report the results of such surveys and investigations to the head of the department or agency concerned together with its recommendation."

Membership in the council consists of executives and other officials in the Federal service whose work involves responsibility for the safety and health of employees of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia.

Preliminary surveys indicated, as early as 1935, that the accident experience generally among various Federal agencies was higher

than comparative experience in private industry. This situation indicated the lack of concentrated effort along lines of accident prevention.

A reduction of at least 40 percent in the deaths and injuries to Government employees by June 30, 1942, is the goal recently suggested to the council by Secretary Perkins and toward which the council is directing its activities.

The council, chairmanned by E. P. Herges, safety engineer of the United States Employees' Compensation Commission, carries out its technical work through 10 special committees dealing with specialized phases of safety in the Government service.

Charles M. Fergusson, safety specialist in the office of the director of personnel in the United States Department of Agriculture, is chairman of the Committee on Agricultural Safety. Other members of this committee include: Jerome J. Henry, assistant to the director of information; Avery S. Hoyt, Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine; Theodore W. Norcross, Forest Service; David J. Price, Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, all of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

A Double-Barreled Program

■ It was a "big day" at Schleswig, Iowa, last fall, when 48 carloads of fat, sleek-looking steers pulled out of the station, bound for the International Livestock Exposition at Chicago. The flower of Crawford County's feed lots—a \$100,000 shipment—was heading for bright lights and beefsteaks.

Nearly a thousand people stood by the tracks, raptly watching the stream of stock cars.

If you had been among them, you would have known without asking a tanned bystander that Crawford County farmers are mighty proud of their beef-cattle enterprise. And if you had turned toward the fertile fields that skirt the town, you would have felt something else—that they are equally proud of their cropping methods that produce feed for their livestock.

One of the reasons why Crawford County is a leader in fine beef-cattle production and soil conservation is the obvious one—Crawford County farmers are progressive. Another reason is Paul Johnson, a county agent who "knows his stuff."

Paul has been county agent in Crawford County for 13 years. Long before he came, Crawford County was an important beef-

producing community. The W. A. McHenry herd of Aberdeen Angus near Denison in 1919 was one of the greatest ever developed in America. Near Charter Oak, A. L. Dietz and Ed Weed had purebred Herefords. Andy Harrington of Vail had a good herd of Shorthorns. Z. T. Dunham and Sons had a herd of Polled Shorthorns which helped to establish that breed. In fact, there were many good herds of cattle in the county.

There was a great quantity of native grass to feed them, too, in those days—quantities of hay. Most of the steeper, rolling land had never been plowed up. But this did not last long.

In 1920, John Quist, then Crawford County agent and now assistant State 4-H boys' leader, said: "Ditch washing is probably the biggest problem in the county. Practically every farmer has the problem of ditches. Few farms have had anything done to check this washing. Dams put in by farmers do not hold."

M. M. Allender, who succeeded Quist as Crawford County agent in 1921, met the same problem and campaigned vigorously for more legumes and better farming methods.

When Johnson took over the duties of

county agent in 1927, he saw that two things were needed to insure the future of Crawford County's livestock enterprise—constantly improved livestock feeding and management methods and an effective soil-conservation program.

More grass, Paul decided, was the answer—grass and complete erosion-control programs.

At the same time, Paul urged cash grain farmers to shift to livestock, not only because livestock returns more fertility to the soil but because meat animals mean bigger incomes.

One year a survey was made of the comparative incomes of 50 surplus grain- and 50 meat-producing farms. The meat-manufacturing units with nearly twice as large a percentage of hay and pasture grossed nearly \$2,500 more per farm than the others.

Paul's efforts were beset with tremendous difficulties. Grasshoppers and droughts struck in western Iowa, destroying even the grass and causing consternation among the feeders who needed feed for their livestock. The depression fell with full weight upon Crawford County.

Joins Forces with SCS

Then came the great opportunity.

In 1934, a Soil Conservation Service CCC camp was established at Denison, and Paul promptly joined hands with the staff of skilled technicians sent out to fight Crawford County's erosion problem. With his help, the camp set up demonstrations to show farmers how to make livestock production safer and the soil secure.

Last year 108 farmers had signed cooperative agreements. Others were adopting contour farming, strip cropping, tree planting, and other erosion-control practices. Bromegrass, timothy, and native grasses appeared. Forty-two farmers enrolled in the pasture-improvement contest.

At the 1939 Iowa State Fair, Crawford County's demonstration team won first prize with a booth on soil conservation.

To help livestock producers, a tour was made to the Omaha market, and a number of meetings were held.

It will take time to finish the job, but Crawford County is definitely going places with its two interdependent programs—better livestock production and soil conservation.

■ REBA ADAMS, home industries specialist for the Georgia Agricultural Extension Service, reports that approximately 500 women in 21 counties of Georgia have attended short courses and group meetings to receive practical instruction in home industries and handicraft work this year. Special emphasis was placed on the development of farm and community resources. Many native materials have been used in the home industry demonstrations.

Farmhouse Research in Wisconsin

J. ROBERT DODGE, Associate Architect, Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering



Views before and after remodeling one of the Wisconsin houses in which tests were conducted.

■ The United States Bureau of Agricultural Chemistry and Engineering and the Department of Agricultural Engineering of the University of Wisconsin have been cooperating since 1935 in a research project to determine, first, actual conditions existing in farmhouses; second, what the requirements for good farm housing are; third, what changes are needed to meet these requirements; and, fourth, the most satisfactory methods of making these changes so that farmers will get the most for their dollars.

Cooperating farmers are selected who wish to improve their housing. Comprehensive studies are made in the old houses, following which remodeling plans are prepared by the bureau's architects, incorporating changes based on the results of the preliminary studies. The construction work is then carried on at the owner's expense with advice and supervision by the bureau. After completion, studies are repeated to check on results. These studies include a thorough examination of the structure by the architects, records of air and surface temperatures, relative humidity and air motion within the houses during the winter, along with records of fuel consumption. A complete analysis is made of the house in its relation to family needs, including such factors as provision for regular household tasks, farm work brought into the house, storage requirements, care of children and provisions for children's study and play, provisions for family relaxation, for entertaining, and many others. These analyses are made by the architect and the family together.

Work has been completed or is under way in houses which represent a good cross section of the type of farmhouse found in this region. They are from 25 to 75 years of age and range in size from 3 to 11 rooms.

All the houses had structural defects, and

most were in poor condition. All were poorly planned, which resulted in various annoyances and in some houses in actually wasting otherwise usable space. Lack of closet and storage space made housekeeping difficult. The kitchens were all inefficiently planned, and where plumbing had been installed the fixtures were usually badly located. All the houses were difficult to heat, and in some badly needed rooms had to be closed off during the winter.

The greatest source of annoyance and discomfort, most families agreed, was inability to properly heat the houses in winter. Studies indicate that cold walls and floors, low air temperatures near the floors, in spite of very high temperatures maintained at the breathing level (5 feet above the floor), and variability in temperature were probably the chief causes of discomfort. These in turn were apparently due to defects in the structure, such as poorly fitting windows and doors, high heat loss through walls and ceilings due to lack of insulation and storm sash, and to poor regulation of the heating system. In one house where the only improvement was complete insulation, walls and floors were warmer and air temperatures near the floor were increased appreciably. It also became possible to use two rooms which formerly were shut off during the winter. All the cooperators report being very comfortable in their improved houses, even in the most severe weather. Fuel savings have been large, as much as 50 percent in one house.

Poor kitchen arrangement and lack of equipment seemed to be second in importance as a source of annoyance, and the homemakers are particularly pleased with their replanned kitchens and hot and cold running water.

Observations on this project indicate that if it is necessary to radically alter the existing foundations and exterior walls in order

to obtain a satisfactory arrangement, or if extensive repairs are necessary in addition to rearrangement of rooms, it is often cheaper to build a new house. In this way, planning is not hindered by existing conditions; and a more satisfactory house is usually the result.

This project showed that the farm family can do much to reduce building costs. In all of the five houses remodeled and the two new ones which were built, some of the work was done by the family itself. Excavating for foundations, mixing and pouring concrete for footings and foundations, assisting the carpenters with the rough framing, placing insulation, and similar tasks can all be done by unskilled or semiskilled persons with a small amount of guidance. One of the new houses was built of stone quarried on the farm by the owner. Another was built almost entirely by the cooperator and his wife. Nearly all of the material, including the lumber for the floors and millwork, was obtained on the farm.

One reason many farmers who otherwise would improve their houses are not doing so is because they lack the necessary information and guidance. The majority of farmers do not readily understand plans and working drawings, and many are even unaware of the fact that not only plans but bulletins giving information on materials, types of construction, and equipment are available.

Farmers in general have not awakened to the desirability of improved housing, and one purpose that this project has served has been to arouse a great deal of interest in better farm housing throughout the State. The cooperators and county and home demonstration agents who have seen these houses have enthusiastically spread the word, and the university has received more requests for information and assistance with building problems than it can readily handle.



Theodore T. Kirsch.



Jean Shippey.

New York and Oregon Win 1940 4-H Fellowships

■ Annually, since 1931, two outstanding 4-H Club members have been awarded National 4-H Fellowships of \$1,000 each. The 1940-41 fellowships, provided for the second time by the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, of Chicago, Ill., have been awarded to Jean Shippey, of Binghamton, N. Y., and to Theodore T. Kirsch, of Coquille, Ore. Both of these young people are at present associated with the Extension Service in their native States. Miss Shippey is associate county club agent in Broome County, N. Y. Mr. Kirsch is assistant secretary of the Coos County, Ore., Agricultural Conservation Association and also takes an active part in 4-H Club work. They will come to Washington in October for 9 months' study at the Department of Agriculture Graduate School.

The winners were selected in national competition from 27 applicants, 12 young men and 15 young women, representing 24 States, by a Federal Extension Service committee composed of Florence Hall, H. W. Gilbertson, and Barnard Joy.

For the first 8 years, the 4-H fellowships were given by the Payne Fund of New York City, the founders of the movement. Awards are made on the basis of scholarship, as well as achievements and leadership in 4-H Club and college activities. Each 4-H fellow must have completed a 4-year college course in

agriculture or home economics and have had a year's experience following graduation. All the fellows have been farm reared and have worked their way through college. Miss Shippey was graduated from the Russell Sage College at Troy, N. Y., in 1938, and Mr. Kirsch from the Oregon State College in 1939. Both of these young people are interested in continuing in 4-H Club work.

Jean Shippey was a delegate to the 1935 National 4-H Club Camp. Her leadership ability was evidenced at camp when she took a major part in the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. Soon after returning home, she attended her State Club Congress and repeated the ceremony for the 1,200 New York 4-H'ers attending. The preceding year, she was New York State's style revue representative at the National Club Congress in Chicago. Good grooming for 4-H girls has always been one of her major interests. On invitation, she attended Maryland's State 4-H conference at College Park in 1937.

During her 7 years of 4-H Club work in Rensselaer County, where she grew up on a farm, Jean was active in giving demonstrations, in judging competitions, and in presenting 4-H Club work to the public at meetings and over the radio. She was secretary and president of the Rensselaer County 4-H Club Council and a member of the New York State 4-H Council. She graduated with

honors from the Russell Sage College, despite the handicaps of working her way through school and commuting each day from the farm home which she managed. She was made a member of two honor societies, French Club and Purple Key. Jean has already had considerable experience as a writer and radio broadcaster. Under the pen name of Peggy Clover she runs a feature page in a New York publication, *The 4-H Home*.

Theodore Timothy Kirsch completed 39 projects during his 10 years as a 4-H Club member, in Wasco County, Ore. He won many State and regional awards. He was active in demonstration and judging work and was a local leader of six 4-H Clubs before entering college. He attended the Pacific International Livestock Exposition as a member of a 4-H crops judging team. He was prominent in athletics and debating in both high school and college. He was a letter man in football, basketball, and baseball, as well as president of the student body of the Maupin High School from which he graduated as valedictorian of his class. He was vice president of the student body of Oregon State College and a member of Alpha Zeta, Blue Key, and Phi Kappa Phi. He was also master of student grange for 2 years.

The 1939 4-H fellows who are just completing their year in Washington are Lillian Murphy of Indiana and Wilmer Bassett, Jr., of Florida. Miss Murphy will return to her job as home demonstration agent in Vigo County, Ind., and Mr. Bassett will resume extension work in his native State.

R. R. Moton Dies

Dr. Robert R. Moton, president emeritus of Tuskegee Institute, died at his home in Gloucester County, Va., on May 31, at the age of 72 years.

Dr. Moton, who was born on an Amelia County, Va., plantation, the son of a slave, succeeded Booker T. Washington as president of Tuskegee and became known as one of the most famous Negro educators in America.

He worked his way through Hampton Institute and remained there as commandant of the cadet corps. In all, he spent 25 years as an officer at Hampton.

In December 1915, he was appointed principal of Tuskegee to succeed Washington. In less than 15 years he increased the institute faculty from 190 to 268 and saw the annual budget grow from \$298,000 to \$580,000.

He was one of the founders of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation. President Wilson sent him to France in 1918 to make a survey among Negro soldiers; and in 1927 Herbert Hoover, as chairman of the President's committee on the Mississippi River flood disaster, appointed him head of the committee of Negro leaders.

Dr. Moton was a natural orator, and among his many addresses was the dedicatory speech at the unveiling of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

Department Motion Pictures Win Awards at International Exposition

■ One first prize, two second prizes, and one third were won by the United States Department of Agriculture films at the International Exposition of Agricultural Films, held in Rome, May 20-27, under the auspices of the International Institute of Agriculture. Official notification of these awards has just been received by the Extension Service from J. Clyde Marquis, American delegate to the Institute.

A first prize of 6,500 lire (\$325) was awarded to "Poultry—a Billion-Dollar Industry," in the general agricultural propaganda class. This film, which had its first public showing at the World's Poultry Congress at Cleveland last summer, was sponsored by the Department poultry committee and produced under the subject-matter supervision of H. L. Shrader, extension poultryman. It was directed and edited by Don Bennett and photographed by Carl Turvey.

"Clouds" which won a second prize in the

elementary class (International Institute Medal) is a one-reel Weather Bureau picture directed by Raymond Evans and produced under the subject-matter supervision of Dr. C. C. Clark. Another second prize (University Educational Class) was awarded to "How Animal Life Begins," a school short made by the Department in cooperation with the American Film Center, Inc. This film is based on the longer Department of Agriculture film, "In the Beginning," sponsored by the Bureau of Dairy Industry, photographed by Carl Turvey and produced under the subject-matter supervision of Dr. E. I. Evans. A third prize in the professional class (The French Medal) was won by the two-reel film, "Sugar Cane," jointly sponsored by the Bureau of Plant Industry and the Extension Service of Louisiana, directed by Raymond Evans, photographed by the late Eugene Tucker, and produced under the subject-matter supervision of Dr. E. W. Brandes, Bureau of Plant Industry.

Sixty Thousand Farm Families Enroll in Tennessee Food-Supply Program

■ More than 60,000 farm families representing every county and community in Tennessee have enrolled in a food-supply program this year in which the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Tennessee is cooperating with Gov. Prentice Cooper, the State Department of Agriculture, and other agencies interested in rural life.

The purpose of the program, which was launched on a State-wide basis in March, with May 15 as the closing date for enrolling, is to encourage the production of a variety and adequate supply of home-grown foods, including fruits, vegetables, meats, milk, butter, and eggs, so as to promote better living among all farm families of the State.

All farmers and their wives, whether landlords, tenants, sharecroppers, white, or colored, were eligible to enroll in the program. Enrollment cards were distributed through the county extension offices by both farm and home agents and vocational agriculture teachers.

Every farm family enrolled in the program that produces on the farm 75 percent or more of the foods necessary for a healthful, well-balanced diet for the family will be given a certificate of recognition by the Governor in November. The farm family in each county of the State making the highest score will be given a plaque for distinguished merit.

Other suitable recognition and awards may be made by county organizations.

The program is in reality a streamlining or elaboration of a live-at-home program which has been emphasized by the Extension Service with outstanding results for a number of years.

The introduction of the contest idea and recognition for those who achieve a set goal has greatly stimulated interest in the production of home supplies of food—growing a good garden, canning, better care of poultry and milk cows, and production of home meat supplies. The contest-enrollment-recognition feature of the program also gives it a popular publicity angle and makes possible the widespread distribution of information on home-food production such as the Extension Service has been carrying on along with other features of a well-planned farm program for a number of years.

Each family enrolled in the program will keep a simple record of food raised, bought, or sold. These records will be judged on a basis of production by the family on the farm of 75 percent of the foods consumed by the family, including the variety of fruit, vegetables, poultry, and livestock products necessary for a healthful, well-balanced diet, and the quality of foods produced and preserved as set forth in a simple score card issued by

the Agricultural Extension Service. This card gives the amount of various vegetables, fruits, poultry, eggs, meat, and milk and other dairy products needed for one person for a year. Each family will fill in the amount needed for the family and the amount of each product produced.

The Extension Service will issue monthly letters of timely suggestions on gardening, canning, poultry management, care of the farm cow and dairy products, and production of meat to all families enrolled in the program. These letters, bulletins, and circulars, and other information in connection with the program are distributed by the county offices of the farm and home extension agents. Enrollment cards are kept in these offices in each county.

The program is being supervised by State and county committees composed of representatives of the cooperating agencies which include: The State Department of Agriculture, State Agricultural Extension Service, local newspapers, Tennessee Farm Bureau, the Tennessee Grange, Farm Security Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, AAA, State Department of Vocational Agriculture, and other agencies interested in rural life.

■ The following film strips have been completed by the Extension Service in cooperation with the Agricultural Marketing Service and the Bureaus of Animal Industry, Entomology and Plant Quarantine, and Plant Industry. The film strips may be purchased at the prices indicated from Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, NW., Washington, D. C., after first obtaining authorization from the United States Department of Agriculture. Blanks for this purpose will be supplied upon request to the Extension Service.

Series 552. *Boll Weevil Control*.—Illustrates the life stages of the boll weevil in relation to cotton injury. Equipment and insecticides for use in various control methods are also described. 48 frames, 50 cents.

Revised Series

Series 26. *Sweetpotato Culture and Handling*.—Illustrates the culture and handling of sweetpotatoes and supplements Farmers' Bulletins 999, Sweetpotato Growing; 1059, Sweetpotato Diseases; 1442, Storage of Sweetpotatoes; and Department Bulletin 1206, Marketing Southern-grown Sweetpotatoes. 64 frames, 55 cents.

Series 41. *Types and Breeds of Beef and Dual-Purpose Cattle*.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletin 612, Breeds of Beef Cattle. 39 frames, 50 cents.

Series 44. *Breeds of Swine*.—Supplements Farmers' Bulletin 1263, Breeds of Swine, and illustrates the various types and breeds of swine commonly used in producing market hogs in the United States. 33 frames, 50 cents.

Series 183. *Picking Practices Affect Market Grades of Cotton*.—Shows selected charts with brief titles prepared from technical research data. 32 frames, 50 cents.

W. A. Lloyd Studies Extension Work in Other Countries

■ W. A. Lloyd, principal agriculturist of the Federal Extension Service, has returned from his trip to South America and Puerto Rico. Mr. Lloyd left Washington on March 8, and while in South America visited Peru, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia. He went into the interior of Peru, visiting Cuzco and Manchupichu to study the old Inca civilization.

At the special request of Director Wilson, Mr. Lloyd made a study of adult education in Peru, Chile, Argentina, and Brazil. In discussing his trip, he said that in these countries the agricultural colleges are under the direction of the national government and in some respects are similar to the land-grant colleges in this country. Extension work in these countries is not greatly developed. In Peru there are a series of demonstration farms in several of the States, but there is nothing similar to the work of our county agents and no work whatever with women and boys and girls. In Chile the work is directed toward the agricultural laborer, and this consists primarily of agricultural primers written in the idiom of the people and directed toward improving the status of this laborer.

There is a somewhat larger development in Argentina, with at least one agent of the National Government in each of the States, and in some States, two or three agents. There the States are about the size of our States. As in Peru, there is no work with women and boys and girls. The national railways and the private railways maintain the ex-

tension service and they are especially interested in the development of agricultural tributaries of their lines.

The extension work in Brazil is undergoing a reorganization which will include in the immediate future the appointment of what would correspond to county agricultural agents in about 3,000 counties. That work is directed entirely toward the improvement of farm crops and seed distribution. Brazil also has no organized extension work for women and boys and girls.

On his return trip to the United States, Mr. Lloyd spent two weeks in Puerto Rico, at the request of Director Wilson, to study the development of extension work as a basis for further development of the work there.

Mr. Lloyd left Washington the last of June for a trip to Alaska to make a study of the 10-year development of extension work in that territory. He organized the work there in 1930, and since then has made several visits. Director Wilson asked Mr. Lloyd to make a rather extensive study of what has happened in the 10-year period as a basis for reorganization of extension work in Alaska to meet present problems there. He will visit various points in southeastern Alaska, including Ketchikan, Juneau, and Sitka, and in the interior will visit the Matanuska project where there are two agents. He will attend the 4-H Club camp at Fairbanks and the extension conference which follows. Mr. Lloyd will return to Washington about the first of September.

strict cleanliness in the home kitchens, the testing of the water supply in each home, and sanitation in the market itself.

Aiming to cut operating costs to a minimum and yet maintain the highest possible standards, the women are buying such supplies as flour, bags, and boxes, on a cooperative basis. This task is in the hands of a buying committee. Another committee sets standard prices for the products.

National 4-H Club Camp Presents Honorary Membership Pins

At the Fourteenth National 4-H Club Camp, club members presented honorary membership pins to Dr. Alfred Bilmanis, Captain William F. Santelmann, and William E. Dripps in recognition of their assistance to 4-H Club work.

Dr. Alfred Bilmanis, Minister for Latvia, who has done much to promote friendly relationships between the 4-H Club members and leaders of the Baltic countries and those of the United States, was presented with the pin. Dr. Bilmanis has shown particular interest in recent National 4-H Club Camps, having appeared on programs at the camp each year, and he has also entertained club delegates at the Latvian Legation. He made it possible for 4-H Clubs in the United States to use the club film showing 4-H activities in Latvia.

Captain William F. Santelmann, leader of the United States Marine Band, was presented with the honorary membership pin for the contribution which his band has made to the National 4-H Club Camp radio programs. This band has been playing regularly for 10 years for the 4-H Club radio program. Captain Santelmann is the son of William H. Santelmann, who was for 30 years the leader of the Marine Band. This is the first time in the century and a half history of this band that the son of a leader has become leader.

This pin was presented to William E. Dripps, agricultural director of the National Broadcasting Co. During the 7 years he has been associated with the company more than 125 4-H Club radio programs have been broadcast over the NBC coast-to-coast network. Mr. Dripps is a native of South Dakota and was formerly associated with farm magazines. He also taught agriculture at the University of Wisconsin. Mr. Dripps has always been much interested in agriculture. Having a son of his own, his special interest has been in the work with boys and girls.

Others who have received this honorary membership pin are Walter Johnson, noted pitcher with the Washington Baseball Club for many years, for his contribution to sportsmanship; Captain Taylor Branson, retired leader of the Marine Band, for the contribution which his band made to the Club Camp radio programs; and Edwin Franko Goldman, composer of the Club march, "Pride of the Land," which he composed especially for and dedicated to 4-H Clubs.

New Farm Women's Market Opens

■ A new market building was opened in June for the farm women of Atlantic County, N. J. The market association now has 30 women members who offer fresh fruits, vegetables, and flowers from the members' gardens, dressed chickens and fresh eggs from their families' farm flocks, and pies, cakes, jams, jellies, canned goods, breads, and specialty dishes from farm home kitchens. The market is open every Saturday, and each seller wears the white uniform agreed upon. Among the members are women native to France, Germany, Hungary, Sweden, and Italy, who will offer dishes popular in the countries of their birth.

Originally suggested by Mrs. Edith G. Norman, county home demonstration agent, the market is patterned after the Montgomery Woman's Farm Market in Bethesda, Md.

Each of the women owns two shares of common stock in the association, purchased at \$25 a share. With this \$1,500 as working capital, the group bought a plot of ground and erected the 24- by 80-foot building. In addition, each member will pay 5 percent of her gross returns toward operating costs.

Recognizing the promise which the plan holds for the welfare of the entire county's farm industry, the county board of agriculture was unanimous in its enthusiasm and made the promotion of the market part of its land-use planning program. The Federal Farm Security Administration also gave a helping hand by lending money to women who needed it to buy their two shares of stock and the State board of health has cooperated with the group's standards committee in setting up rigid health standards,

Economic Institutes Flourish

■ Farmers, ministers, and bankers of the Garden State are showing a new interest in public problems as a result of recent economics institutes sponsored by the Extension Service of the College of Agriculture, Rutgers University, New Jersey, in cooperation with county boards of agriculture, according to W. F. Knowles, extension professor of agricultural economics.

Experts on subjects affecting the well-being of farmers and consumers gave 30-minute talks, after which local citizens presented their own views. On controversial topics, speakers gave both sides of the question, and spirited discussion by the audience followed.

"The purpose of the institutes was largely educational," Professor Knowles said. "They are not debating or literary societies, not resolution or action clubs. They are in the nature of discussion groups."

Speakers were told to bring facts and to limit themselves to short, concise explanations of their subject. They were asked to avoid making partisan talks on subjects of a political nature.

Local citizens were chairmen of all meetings. They were selected by committees of farm men and women before the meetings began, and their instructions were definite. "After the speaker finishes," they were told, "have him sit down and keep quiet, and ask for questions and discussion from the floor."

When questions of a controversial nature were on the program, each speaker was given a chance to comment on his opponent's talk. "Should Our People Support a Federal-State Cooperative Plan of Health Assistance?" was one topic which brought forth good and interesting arguments from both sides.

Institutes were held in Paterson, Cape May Court House, Mount Holly, Hightstown, Freehold, and Flanders. In addition, an institute for town and county ministers was held at New Brunswick. Clergymen from every section of the State met at Rutgers to discuss problems facing farm people and the rural church.

"The rural minister is one of the leading forces in a small community," Professor Knowles said. "We believe that a minister who knows some of the facts about economic and social problems affecting rural folk will be better equipped to answer questions coming up in his church and among his people."

Scholarships given by church groups were used to pay the expenses of ministers in outlying districts to New Brunswick.

Commodity prices were studied from the point of view of the farmer. Ministers were asked why prices were at this particular level. They were asked to explain the tax situation. When they found that they knew too little about everyday farm problems, their interest was aroused, and they re-

turned to their towns and villages armed with facts they had never known before.

"This is the third year for the Institute for Town and Country Ministers," said Professor Knowles. "The first year, we had an attendance of 75. The second year we had only 65. The drop was due to insufficient publicity last year. We expected the first year's publicity to carry over to the second meeting, but evidently the idea did not have enough momentum."

"We expect 75 to 100 ministers this year," he added.

Last fall Professor Knowles visited each of the six counties in which institutes were being planned. He conferred with local committees composed of extension agents, farmers, and townspeople who were interested in the institutes. The committees outlined subjects for discussion and agreed upon suitable dates.

Knowles then selected a speaker for each subject listed—a man or woman whose work in the particular field qualified him or her to speak as an expert. He sent his tentative date list to each potential speaker and allowed the speaker to choose a date.

"As our institutes are held along the lines of discussion or a forum, we never have any motions made," he explained. "People come to the institutes to learn more about social and economic problems. They take their resolutions back to their granges or county boards of agriculture and get them to do the 'resolving'."

Speakers were told to limit their talks to factual information and to leave their oratory at home. "Don't get up there and shoot off a lot of literary stuff and tell a lot of stories," they were advised. "Our people want facts. They are looking for a fair, clean, and honest interpretation of the facts."

Many nationally known speakers addressed the institutes. At the Burlington County meetings, held February 29 to March 21, Dr. O. E. Baker, senior agricultural economist of the United States Department of Agriculture, explained the economic and social significance of population trends. Robert B. Schwenger, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics at Washington, discussed the Hull reciprocal-trade agreements as they affect the farmer.

At the Monmouth County Institute, held in February, the question, "What does the consumer want and how does she want it?" was presented. Frank M. Shook, secretary of the Tri-State Packers Association of Easton, Md., and Edward E. Gallahue, of the Consumer's Counsel Division of the United States Department of Agriculture, discussed the problem from all angles.

Summing up the effects of this year's meetings, Professor Knowles said: "These people who attended regularly have learned some-

thing, and they can and do act more intelligently at grange meetings and at the market place when topics of a similar nature come up. The knowledge of public affairs they gain enables them to act more intelligently on public questions. It aids them to help their neighbors and friends to think through certain economic and social questions.

"We are enabling citizens in a democracy such as ours to reach sounder conclusions and to make sounder decisions on public questions. In a democracy it is important that citizens know the facts, and it is our intention through these institutes to give them the facts."

Charles P. Close Dies

Charles P. Close, who retired as senior extension horticulturist in 1938, died at his home in College Park, Md., on May 19 after an illness of 3 months.

Mr. Close was associated with the Department of Agriculture for 27 years, having served as extension horticulturist from 1917 to 1938. During the 16 years prior to his employment in the Department of Agriculture he was engaged in horticultural research and teaching at the Maryland Agricultural College and Experiment Station, the Delaware College and Experiment Station, the Utah Agricultural College, and the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, at Geneva, N. Y.

A native of Michigan, Mr. Close graduated from the Michigan State College in 1895 and received the degree of master of science in horticulture from the same college in 1897. He was active in professional organizations, having served for 20 years as secretary-treasurer of the American Society for Horticultural Science, of which he was a charter member. He was a life member of the American Pomological Society, a charter member of the Northern Nut Growers' Association, a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the American Genetic Association. In 1938, Mu Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi presented Mr. Close with a diamond-set key in appreciation of his service to extension work.

Mr. Close was distinguished for his work in producing new types of apples by cross-pollination. An early red apple developed by him, called the Close apple, is now on the market. It has been tested in a number of experiment stations in the East, and good reports have been received on this apple from New England as far south as Tennessee.

■ In a recent discussion at the Iowa Farm and Home Week at Iowa State College it was brought out that 97 percent of the farm people in Iowa have no public libraries within reach. Plans are under way to have a demonstration soon of "bookmobile" service in Lucas County, Iowa, which will be made possible by the WPA working with the Chariton library and the State traveling library.

IN BRIEF

Circular Letters

Utah county agents wrote 2,572 different circular letters last year. A contest on circular-letter writing was conducted during the year, and a committee selected the best circular letter submitted each month to the State office. The county agent who wrote the letter selected was asked for 50 copies which were sent to all other county agent offices, together with a letter calling attention to the good points of the circular. As a result of the contest, letters have become shorter, more appropriately illustrated, and more interesting.

Professional Improvement

Teachers College, Columbia University, announces a special program of studies for members of the Extension Service working for advanced degrees. A major in "Cooperative Extension Service" has been established to provide a general curriculum in which there is sufficient leeway to meet the needs and interests of men and women extension workers. The plan has been developed by Teachers College officials in cooperation with members of Federal and State extension staffs. The work is scheduled for the winter and spring sessions of 1940-41.

Paint Demonstrations

Home demonstration agents in California have developed a novel method in demonstrating wood finishing and the use of paints. Service trays of 3-ply pine, 12 by 18 inches in size, and with 1-inch rims, provide each woman with a usable article to work on at the meeting. These are ordered in quantities in advance and can be obtained for 25 cents each. The five successive stages of a good paint job are displayed on previously prepared materials, and each woman learns the proper methods of applying paint by practicing on the tray. In several of the counties the agents plan the "use of paint" meetings around floor finish, furniture renovation, or wall and woodwork covering.

Discussion Meetings Prove Popular With Delaware Farmers

With question and answer type of meetings and radio programs sweeping the country, the Delaware Agricultural Extension Service decided this year to try out the discussion meeting for presenting to farmers pertinent, timely, agricultural facts. Featuring the appear-

ance of extension and experiment station specialists to answer questions and with county agents to act as chairmen, four discussion meetings have been held to date. A meeting on tree fruits and another on strawberries and tomatoes each attracted 75 farmers to Bridgeville High School. At another meeting at Camden there were 60 present and a general farm meeting at Milford High School brought out 140. Besides these sessions, agents in Kent and New Castle Counties have held discussion meetings on farm credit.

Director George L. Schuster comments: "I am convinced that with this kind of meeting Delaware farmers are able to obtain those facts that they need most. Each farmer has opportunity to ask questions which apply to his particular situation. Because of this direct method of supplying information, the farmer's time is saved, often at a time when he is busiest, and the work of our specialists becomes more effective because we can reach a greater number of rural people through the meeting."

Bathroom Planning

Home demonstration meetings on bathroom planning were held in four counties in California in 1939. The selection and arrangement of fixtures; lighting; storage; and the treatment and cleaning of walls, floors, and plumbing were discussed. Charts and mimeographed materials were used to illustrate the planning of bathrooms. Studies were made in the buying of bathroom supplies, such as towels, soaps, dentifrices, deodorants, powders, and brushes. A colorful kit of towels and other articles added zest and interest to the meetings.

In one county the county agent gave talks on farm plumbing, septic tanks, solar heaters, water softeners, and water supplies. These meetings have proved very successful.

ON THE CALENDAR

Farm Women's Day, World's Fair, New York, N. Y., August 15.

Twenty-fourth Annual Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 15-21.

National Dairy Show, Harrisburg, Pa., October 12-19.

American Country Life Association Conference, Purdue University, La Fayette, Ind., November 7-9.

Fifty-fourth Annual Convention of the American Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Chicago, Ill., November 11-13.

Convention of National Grange, Syracuse, N. Y., November 13-21.

National 4-H Club Congress, Chicago, Ill., November 30-December 6.

International Livestock Show, Chicago, Ill., December 1-8.

Annual Convention, American Farm Bureau Federation, Baltimore, Md., December 9-12.

AMONG OURSELVES

■ DIRECTOR M. L. WILSON received the honorary degree of Doctor of Agriculture from the North Dakota Agricultural College at Fargo on June 10. The occasion of this honor was the fiftieth anniversary of the College.

■ JOHN W. MITCHELL was appointed State agent in charge of Negro extension work in North Carolina, effective April 1.

A native of North Carolina, Mitchell has been an extension worker in that State for 22 years, the last 10 years of which he has been Negro district agent. He was graduated from A. & T. College, Greensboro, N. C., with a B. S. degree in agriculture, and received a master of arts degree from Central University in Indiana, majoring in sociology. For 6 years before he entered extension work, he was a teacher at Fayetteville State Normal School in North Carolina, 5 years of which he was assistant principal of the institution.

Offices of honor which he holds in North Carolina include: Member of the executive committee of the Interracial Commission, member of the executive committee of the State Parent-Teacher Association, member of the Committee on Negro Affairs of North Carolina, and secretary of the Adult Educational Council for Negroes.

■ C. A. BOND, who served as extension editor for the State of Washington from August 1, 1935, left April 17 for a new position with the United States Department of Agriculture at Amarillo, Tex. His official title is information coordinator with the Southern Great Plains Area which comprises the States of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, and Colorado.

H. Calvert Anderson succeeded Mr. Bond as extension editor May 6. Mr. Anderson received his grade and high-school training at Prescott, Wash., and attended Whitman College from 1928 to 1932, where he earned his B. A. degree. He had practical experience on his father's wheat farm until he was 21 years of age.

Since 1934 he has been employed in general newspaper reporting with the Walla Walla Union Bulletin, covering services of an agricultural nature for that paper from the county extension office, the county AAA office, and meetings of the various agricultural organizations; and he has been in close contact with the problems, the needs, and the programs of farmers and farm organizations. He has been an active member of the Walla Walla Junior Chamber of Commerce and last year was awarded the annual certificate for outstanding services to the community.

Value of a Printed Program

The demand upon Agricultural Extension Service time in a highly diversified county such as Stanislaus County, Calif., makes it necessary that extension work be carefully planned well in advance.

Program planning as such is not new in California and especially in Stanislaus County. The program in its final form is arrived at after various extension agents and farm groups that do the work have had an opportunity to plan their program for the year. Then those truly extension activities are assembled, and they cover the entire field of farm activities in the county.

The 1940 program includes work through the farm bureau, the land-use planning committees, agricultural economic conference, agricultural conservation association, cooperative marketing organizations, and other agricultural groups with whom extension work is carried on. The extension program, therefore, represents a cross section of interests along agricultural lines and covers a wide field of activities.

The printed program is sent to all newspapers in the county where it is further published, and a copy is mailed to all co-operators and various interested organizations in the county, such as agricultural teachers, agricultural conservation committees, farm bureau committees, granges, chambers of commerce, bankers, and others. We feel that by publicizing the program in this manner folks get a better idea of what the extension agents are attempting to do. It also gives us a better opportunity for closer cooperation with key folks in the county. This has meant a more comprehensive program along agricultural lines for the better development of Stanislaus County agriculture.—A. A. Jungerman, agricultural agent, Stanislaus County, Calif.

Club Leadership

The desire to be of real service has made our women and girls enrolled in home demonstration and 4-H Club work leaders in their communities. It is through club work that rural leadership is developed. In the counties where we have home demonstration agents today, leadership among the women and girls is showing a remarkable development, this being especially true since such increased demands have been made on the agent's time. The local women and girls through their councils realize that they must take a larger share of responsibility for extending the home demonstration program, and allow the agent more time to develop new or emergency work.

In 1939 a total of 1,157 women and girls assisted home demonstration agents as voluntary local leaders in forwarding the extension program. In order to help these leaders



This is a place where agents are invited to express their ideas and opinions about anything which seems important to them. Those things which please, bother, or help one agent in his work are just the things which prove valuable to other agents.



become more efficient, 134 training meetings were held with an attendance of 3,370. In the selection of these leaders, great care has been taken to appoint only those women and girls who have established creditable demonstrations in their own homes.

Leadership among the older 4-H Club girls has been undertaken in the formation of alumnae clubs in several counties. Membership consists of girls too old to be active in the group of younger girls and too young to enjoy active membership in the clubs for women. Older girls, of course, are facing the matter of leaving their communities for college. Our College 4-H Club at Tallahassee is an example of fine interest in continuing to carry on their activities.—Ruby McDavid, district home agent, Florida.

CONTENTS

	Page
Taking the Lag from Housing—Editorial, M. L. Wilson.....	Inside front cover
Rural Housing Stimulated by Government.....	93
"Growing Homes" in Arkansas.....	94
Light and Power Come to Caldwell County, N. C.—A. S. Culberson.....	95
Architects for a Rural Program—C. A. Svinth, Wash.....	96
Family-Planned Kitchens—E. Lindstrom, Kans.....	97
What Does It Profit a County, Texas.....	98
County Works on Health "H."—F. J. Reed, W. Va.....	99
Oregon Land-Use Planning Committees Help to Solve Migratory Problems.....	100
Relief for Rural Writers—J. W. Scheel, Kans.....	101
A Double-Barreled Program, Iowa.....	102
Farmhouse Research in Wisconsin—J. R. Dodge.....	103
1940 4-H Fellowships.....	104
Tennessee Food-Supply Program.....	105
Economic Institutes Flourish, New Jersey.....	107
In Brief and Among Ourselves.....	108
My Point of View.....	Page 3 of cover

Off to a Good Start

I was interested in the article in the May issue of the EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW concerning the use of lime in Sumter County, S. C. The statements made by Mr. Eleaser might apply equally well to Christian County, Ky., except that we have gone much farther than his county.

Christian County, with 43,308 tons of ground limestone used under the Agricultural Conservation Program, led all other counties in Kentucky. In addition, 12,000 tons more were spread but not reported as practices. Therefore, the total for the county in 1939 was 55,000 tons of ground limestone. Twenty-eight thousand tons have already been procured through the 1940 farm program by 850 farmers. From May 1 to May 29, 1940, 11,625 tons were ordered, or an average of 415 tons per day.

Our county also led all other Kentucky counties in seeding legumes and grasses in the 1939 agricultural conservation program. Soil-conserving crops were seeded on 68,528 acres. Five hundred farmers used 1,528 tons of 20-percent superphosphate in connection with soil-conserving crops.

Another accomplishment we like to mention is that our farmers support a cooperative soil improvement association which owns efficient heavy-duty terracing, ditching, and scraper equipment. During the last 5 years the association has constructed 1,500,000 feet of terraces, in addition to digging ponds, constructing roads, and ditching.

We have a long way to go, especially in the use of cover crops and the seeding of better mixtures; but you can see that our people are off to a good start.—W. D. Talbert, agricultural agent, Christian County, Ky.

Extension Ethics

A code of ethics is essential in any business or profession. Although our extension code is for the most part unwritten, it nevertheless forms part of our habit of conduct. It is recognized by those who come in contact with us; adherence to it is expected by them; departure from it is criticized and penalized.

Perhaps the central core of this code is our determination not to take liberties with scientific truth for selfish commercial, political, or personal ends. We believe that so long as we transmit knowledge and not opinion, established facts and not guesses to our people, so long shall we retain their respect and our own professional standing. So long as we can approach them without guile or hidden purpose in our utterances, with no aim but that of their own best good, so long will we abide in their midst. The opportunity to function under this code is an important professional satisfaction that we get from extension.—Warren W. Clark, associate director of extension, Wisconsin.

Better than WORDS A THOUSAND

IN A LANGUAGE older than words pictures gain the attention of the audience and tell a convincing story.

The contract for film strips for the current fiscal year was again awarded to Photo Lab, Inc., 3825 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, D. C. This is the only firm authorized to make and sell official film strips of the United States Department of Agriculture until July 1, 1941.

Film strips sell for 50 cents to 70 cents each when single copies are purchased. When quantities are ordered from the same negative, prices are lower.

The same low prices for preparing film strips for State and county workers from their local photographs will prevail again this year, the price being 10 cents per frame for the single frame size or 15 cents per frame for the double frame size. These prices include the negative and one positive print ready for use.

Write for additional information regarding costs for printing of legends and subtitles, catalog of film strips, and suggestions on how to organize your own series from your photographs.



EXTENSION SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, D. C.